

In lieu of June 2014  
monitoring report.

## Heimdal, Monica

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**From:** John Brunini <Johnny.Brunini@butlersnow.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 04, 2014 1:32 PM  
**To:** Kato, Linda  
**Cc:** Heimdal, Monica; 'Kyle Brock'; Greg Meyer  
**Subject:** Williston Village Mobile Home Park - Wetland Restoration Update  
**Attachments:** Letter to Linda Kato enclosing photographs.PDF

Ms. Kato,

I hope this email finds you well. Attached please find electronic copies of a letter and photographs in the referenced matter. I am sending you a hardcopy by mail today. Once you have had an opportunity to review the attached, please let me know if you have any questions. Please also note that my contact information has changed since we last exchanged emails and telephone calls.

Thanks,  
JB

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Photos taken 6-27-14  
(see Brunini's 8-5-14  
email)

August 4, 2014

Ms. Linda Kato  
US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202-1129

RE: Williston Village Mobile Home Park Wetland Restoration  
Docket No. CWA-08-2013-0032

Dear Ms. Kato,

Please consider this letter as an update of activities concerning the restoration of the wetland within the Williston Village Mobile Home Park, Docket No. CWA-08-2013-0032.

Restoration activities including restoration of the wetland, final grading of the wetland side-slopes, and implementation of erosion control structures (silt fence and straw wattles) was completed in early November 2013. The final step of the wetland restoration activities included removing the last of the fill materials which allowed the wetland to be flooded with water that had been previously backed-up by those materials. This was completed last fall before the restored wetland area was unable to be seeded due to cold temperatures and the unavailability of appropriate seed. The extreme cold winter and spring, dry summer, and the continued unavailability of the appropriate seed has resulted in our inability to seed the wetland area yet. However, the site is naturally re-vegetating itself as seen in the attached photographs.

According to our environmental consultants on this project, Carlson McCain, Inc., natural re-vegetation of restored wetland areas is to be expected and Carlson McCain has encountered this circumstance with numerous U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetland mitigation projects. In fact, according to Carlson McCain, most of its wetland mitigation projects do not call for seeding a restored wetland area, but rather allow for natural re-vegetation. Further complicating our efforts on this project is our continued inability to locate seed mixes of the three primary species found in the adjacent wetland areas: Nuttall's alkaligrass (*Puccinellia nuttalliana*), foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*), or inland saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*). The only alkaligrass seed available is Fultz alkaligrass, but it is an introduced species and Carlson McCain has advised that we not seed it in the wetland area as it could spread into Camp Creek.

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At this time, we believe that seeding the restored wetland area will be unnecessary as it will re-vegetate naturally from the adjacent wetland areas. If EPA disagrees and believes that seeding the wetland area is necessary, prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), would be a good candidate species. Prairie cordgrass is a common wetland species of the geographic area, can handle high concentrations of salinity (present in the wetland area), and is prevalent upstream of the project.

The side-slopes in the restored area have also not been seeded due to the extreme winter and spring and dry summer. Conditions remained unfavorable during the entire period of specified planting dates for the appropriate seed mixes, so we have decided to wait until next spring (per the dates listed in the restoration plan) in order to aid the success of the seeding effort. The side slopes at the site will be hydro-seeded next spring (2015) during the appropriate dates. Weedy vegetation, primarily Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), has flourished along the side-slopes and is currently providing ground cover that aids in erosion control (see attached photographs). The ground cover, straw wattles, and sediment fence have stabilized the side-slopes. Russian thistle is not a noxious weed and can be effectively managed. These weedy species are being currently managed (mowed) and we will make efforts to eliminate them prior to the seeding activities in the spring.

To date, we have not undertaken formal monitoring efforts due to the delays in our seeding efforts, but will be conducted in August to evaluate the natural re-vegetation of the restored wetland and adjacent side-slopes.

Please call me at 601-985-4447 or Greg Meyer of Carlson McCain at 701-595-7004 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

BUTLER SNOW LLP

  
John A. Brunini

Attachments: Photographs

cc: Monica Heimdal  
Greg Meyer  
Kyle Brock

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Photograph 1 View of restored wetland area facing north from the adjacent side-slope. The wetland area is being naturally re-vegetated by seeds from the adjacent wetland areas. The erosion control structures are evident in the photograph and these include the orange sediment fence and straw wattles along the side-slopes. These were installed during the fall of 2013. Russian thistle and other weed species have become established on the side-slopes of the restored wetlands. The weedy vegetation is being managed (mowed) and will help with erosion control until the sides-slopes are seeded with the native species seed mixture next spring (2015).



Photograph 2. View of western end of restored wetland area. A distinct line of vegetation indicates the impacted area.



Photograph 3. View of western end of the restored wetland area.





Photograph 4. View of restored wetland area and side-slopes facing west. Small areas of inundation were present in the wetland at the time the photograph was taken.



Photograph 5. View of side-slopes facing east.